

REMARKS

Claims 1-27, 31-36, 38-60, and 62-81 are pending in the present application.

In the office action mailed February 2, 2007 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner rejected claims 1-27, 31-36, 38-60, and 62-81 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MDSI Mobile Data Solutions reference (the "MDSI reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,467,268 to Sisley *et al.* (the "Sisley patent") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,005 to Lesaint *et al.* (the "Lesaint patent").

An information disclosure statement was submitted on July 12, 2006 (the "IDS"). Applicants request the Examiner consider the references cited in the Form PTO-1449 of the IDS and provide the attorney of record with a signed and initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449.

The remarks from the previous responses to office actions are maintained. The remarks of the present response are directed to the Examiner's Response to Arguments addressing the teachings of the Lesaint patent, found in the Office Action at pages 19-20.

The Examiner maintains that the Lesaint patent teaches aggregating reservations and an aggregator component as recited in the pending claims, specifically citing to col. 12, lines 25-45 and col. 14, lines 15-25. The Examiner argues that the Lesaint patent's teaching of selecting tasks that must all be allocated to the same technician in a predetermined order for pre-processing is analogous to aggregating reservations as recited in the pending claims. The "aggregation" of tasks described in the Lesaint patent is for the purpose of pre-scheduler 30 is to generate a partial tour having only a subset of tasks available. See col. 10, lines 26-37. The partial tour is then passed to the optimizing subsystem 31 where a "optimized schedule" is generated. See col. 10, lines 38-45. As part of the pre-scheduling process, the a subset of tasks are selected, including tasks that must all be allocated to the same technician in a predetermined order and tasks requiring more than one person at a single location. See col. 12, lines 30-50.

The Lesaint patent fails to describe aggregating reservation having enabled aggregation indicators. As described in the present application, reservations that have the aggregation indicator enabled are eligible for aggregation. In contrast, the Lesaint patent does not describe tasks having aggregation indicators that can be enabled and disabled to control which tasks are eligible for "aggregation." The Examiner argues that the linking of the tasks that must be allocated to the same technician in a predetermined order is analogous to an aggregation indicator. However, this ignores that the aggregation indicator can be disabled to remove a task

from being aggregated. The type of tasks (i.e., ones that must occur in a predetermined order by the same technician) is not the same as having an aggregation indicator which is associated with each reservation. The Lesaint patent does not describe a case where tasks that must be performed in a predetermined order and by the same technician would not be aggregated. The option is not contemplated because it would not make any sense if the tasks that must be performed in a predetermined order by the same technician were unlinked and removed from "aggregation." The tasks are linked by necessity, and whether they are aggregated or not aggregated is not optional. The linking identified by the Examiner is not analogous to the aggregation indicator of a reservation. The reservations described in the present application, however, can be made eligible or ineligible for aggregation using the aggregation indicator, regardless of the type of reservation, unlike the aggregation identified by the Examiner in the Lesaint patent.

The Lesaint patent further fails to describe aggregating tasks according to an aggregation parameter set in order to group reservations that are similar (as defined by the aggregation parameter set) so that the reservations can be assigned one after the other to the shift of the same mobile service representative. The reservations that are aggregated are not expressly assigned to the particular mobile service representative, as is the case described in the Lesaint patent, but can be aggregated based on, for example, proximity. In the case of proximity as the basis for aggregation, the likelihood of more than one company truck being seen in the same location at the same time can be reduced. In contrast, the "aggregation" that is purportedly disclosed in the Lesaint patent does not reduce the likelihood of this occurring. The selection of the tasks that must be allocated to the same technician in a predetermined order would not affect whether tasks at a proximate location are assigned to another technician, which would result in at least two company trucks being seen by a customer in the same location.

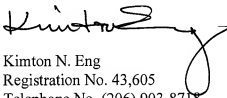
Claims 1, 11, 21, 34, and 58 have been amended to more clearly illustrate the difference between aggregation as recited in the claims and the selection of a subset of tasks for pre-processing as described in the Lesaint patent. As amended, reservations that are aggregated as recited in claims 1, 11, 34, and 58 are not limited to a particular mobile service representative and having enable aggregation indicators. The reservations are aggregated according to an aggregation parameter set defining information of reservations to be compared during aggregation. The aggregated reservations have a same value for the information defined by the

aggregation parameter set. The Lesaint patent fails to disclose at least "aggregation" as recited in the claims. Similarly, the aggregator component recited in claim 21 is operable to aggregate reservations not limited to a particular mobile service representative and having enabled aggregation indicators. The reservations are aggregated by the aggregator component in accordance with an aggregation parameter set defining information of reservations to be compared during aggregation. The aggregated reservations have a same value for the information defined by the aggregation parameter set.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 11, 21, 34, and 58 are patentable over the MDSI reference in view of the Sisley patent and further in view of the Lesaint patent. Claims 2-10, which depend on claim 1, claims 12-20, which depend on claim 11, claims 22-27 and 31-33, which depend on claim 21, claims 35, 36, and 38-57, which depend on claim 34, and claims 59, 60, and 62-81, which depend on claim 58, are similarly patentable based on their dependency on a respective allowable base claim. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-27, 31-36, 38-60, and 62-81 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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